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The authors think it would have been possible to prolong the experiment beyond the ninety hours without danger, except in one of the three cases. These results contrast favorably with those obtained by M. de Manacéine upon young dogs. The animals were kept from sleeping and died at the end of the fourth or fifth day.—H. C. WARREN.

PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

American Philosophical Society.—November 6, 1896.—The following communications were made: "Recent Archæological Explorations on the Shell Keys and Gulf Coast of Florida," by Frank Hamilton Cushing, followed by Dr. D. G. Brinton and Prof. F. W. Putnam.

November 20, 1896.—Prof. H. V. Hilprecht addressed the Society on his recent archæological discoveries at Nippur, and exhibited a collection of tablets with Summerian inscriptions. A paper on "A New Physical Property of the X-Ray," by Charles L. Leonard, M. D., was read.

University of Pennsylvania, BIOLOGICAL CLUB.—November 2, 1896.—The following demonstrations were made; Descriptive Exhibitive of *Streptocarpus* and *Ephedra* by Dr. J. M. McFarlane and of *Botrychium* by H. C. Porter. The following communication was made; School Museums, by Mrs. L. L. W. Wilson.

H. C. PORTER, *Secretary*.

The Biological Society of Washington.—The following communications were made; Theodore Gill, "The Category of Family or Order in Biology;" C. Hart Merriam, "Notes on the Fauna of Oregon;" E. A. DeSchweinitz, "Some Methods of Generating Formaldehyde, and its Use as a Disinfectant;" C. Hart Merriam, "Supplementary Notes on Tropical American Shrews.

November 21st.—The following communications were made: G. H. Hicks, "The 'Mildews' (*Erysiphææ*) of Michigan;" Frederick V. Coville, "The Inflorescence of the *Juncaceæ*;" Theodor Holm, "The Alpine Flora of Pikes Peak and Grays Peak in Colorado;" C. L. Pollard, "Some Further Remarks on Britton and Brown's Illustrated Flora."

FREDERIC A. LUCAS, *Secretary*.

National Academy of Sciences.—A scientific session of the Academy was held in New York, at the Columbia University, beginning November 17, 1896, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The following papers were read: "On Certain Positive Negative Laws in their Relation to Organic Chemistry," A. Michael; "The Jurassic Formation on the Atlantic Coast," O. C. Marsh; "The Hydrolysis of Acid Amides," Ira Remsen; "The Isomeric Chlorides of Paranitroorthosulphobenzoic Acid," Ira Remsen; "The Equations of the Forces Acting in the Flotation of Disks and Rings of Metal, with Experiments Showing the Floating of Loaded Disks and Rings of Metal on Water and on Other Liquids," Alfred M. Mayer; "On the Geographical Distribution of Batrachia and Reptilia in the Medicolumbian Region," E. D. Cope; "On the Solar Motion as a Gauge of Stellar Distances," S. Newcome; "Memoir of F. B. Meek," C. A. White; "The Evolution and Pylogeny of Gastropod Mollusca," A. E. Verrill; "On Flicker Photometers," O. N. Rood; "A New Type of Telescope Free from Secondary Color," C. S. Hastings; "A Graphical Method of Logic," C. Pearce; "On Mathematical Infinity," C. Pearce.

A reception was given to the Academy by Mrs. Henry Draper, on the evening of Wednesday, November 18.

Boston Society of Natural History.—November 4th.—The following paper was read: Prof. George Lincoln Goodale, "The Reclaiming of Deserts."

November 18th.—The following papers were read: Prof. George H. Barton, "Observations upon the Inland Ice and the Glaciers Proceeding from it in the Umanak District, Greenland;" Prof. Alfred E. Burton, "The Topographical Features of the Umanak District, Greenland. Other members of the Greenland Expedition were present, and took part in the discussion.—SAMUEL HENSHAW, *Secretary*.

The Academy of Science of St. Louis.—At the meeting of November 2, 1896, Mr. Colton Russell spoke of "What an Entomologist Can Find of Interest About St. Louis," illustrating his remarks by numerous pinned specimens of insects, giving particular attention to the butterflies, and speaking at some length of the phenomena of periodicity, migration, polymorphism, etc., as illustrated by these insects, his paper embodying the result of a large amount of field work performed during the last ten years. Resolutions were adopted opposing the passage of the antivivisection bill now before the United States Senate. Three persons were elected to active membership.

At the meeting on the evening of November 16, 1896, Dr. Charles R. Keyes, the State Geologist of Missouri, read a paper entitled, "How Shall We Subdivide the Carboniferous?" and Professor J. H. Kinealy exhibited a chart for determining the number of square feet of low-pressure steam-heating surface required to keep a room at 70° F., and gave a description of the method of making the chart. Two active members and one life-member of the Academy were elected.

WILLIAM TRELEASE, *Recording Secretary*.

New York Academy of Sciences.—November 9th.—Members of the Columbia University Expedition to Puget Sound made reports on the summer's work.

Mr. N. R. Harrington gave a short narrative of the expedition, including a description of the equipment of the laboratory, dredging, investigation and plankton collection.

In addition, he made a report on the Echinoderms, Crustacea and Annelids. Mention was made of the relation of the asymmetry in *Scutella excentrica* to its habit of burrowing and its vertical position in the sand. Abundant material, both larval and adult, of *Entoconcha* was obtained. This mollusk had been noted by Müller in 1852, and Baur in 1864, in *Synapta digitata* and by Semper in *Holothuria edulis*. The present material was found in an undetermined species of *Holothuria*. About forty species each of Crustacea, Annelids and Echinoderms have been identified.

Mr. Bradley B. Griffin presented the following report on the Platodes, Nemerteans and Mollusks:

The Platodes and Gephyrea are relatively scarce. They are represented solely by two Dendrocoels, and one Phymosoma respectively. The nemertines occur very abundantly, fully fifteen different species were obtained, most of which appear to be undescribed, though some seem to approach more or less closely the European forms rather than those of the east coast of America. The European species are the more numerous.

The Molluscan fauna is very rich and varied, ninety-three species of sixty-nine genera were collected. These include among others the large *Cryptochiton stellerii* which, when alive and expanded measures over 20 cm., besides numerous smaller species of Mopalia, Katherina, Tonicella, etc., that occur in vast numbers on rocks and piles between tides. The Nudibranchs are notable from their bright colors and large size. One species of *Dendronotus* attains a length of over 25 cm. Cases of color variation (*Cardium* and *Acmaea*) and color series (*Littorina*) were to be met with, as well as color harmonization; many

Chitons and Limpets are colored so as to more or less resemble the speckled and barnacled rocks upon which they occur. A complete series of *Pholadidea penita* (the "boring clam") was obtained, which shows the gradual atrophy of the foot and concrescence of the mantle edges as the adult condition is attained. Specimens of *Zirphæa crispata* were collected, a related form in which the foot remains functional throughout life. A series of maturation and fertilization stages of this form was obtained. *Lepton* is not uncommon, a Lamellibranch that lives with commensal attached by its byssus to the abdomen of the Crustacean *Gebia*, and has caused the atrophy of the first pair of abdominal appendages of its host. It has developed a median furrow on each valve in adaptation to the body form of *Gebia*. An interesting case was observed in which an otherwise nearly smooth *Placuanomia* shell had assumed during its growth the concentric raised lines of a *Saxidomus* valve upon which it was attached.

The insects are not very abundant, they are represented in the collection mainly by a few wood beetles, myriopods (*Julus*, *Polydesmus*), and a species of *Termes*.

Mr. Calkins reported on the Protozoa and Coelenterates of Puget Sound and of the Alaskan Bays.

The Protozoa and Coelenterates collected during the summer by Mr. Calkins belong chiefly to the group Flagellata for the former, and to the Leptomedusæ for the latter. In addition, there are nine species of hydroids—a large number, considering the very limited representation of this group in the western waters. Twelve or fourteen species of Actinians and about the same number of sponges, and several Scyphomedusæ complete the list of Coelenterates.

Mr. Bashford Dean reported on the Chordates and Protochordates of the Collection. The Ascidians are represented by about a dozen species, Fishes by upwards of forty. The most important part of his work had been the collecting of embryos and larvæ of *Chimaera* (*Hydrolagus collieri*) and a fairly complete series of embryos of *Bdellostoma*, including upwards of 20 stages from cleavage to hatching. Of *Chimaera*, upward of eighty egg cases had been dredged in a single day; but in every case these were found to be empty. The eggs were finally obtained at Pacific Grove, California, from the female, and were incubated in submerged cages. It was in this locality that the eggs of *Bdellostoma* were collected.

C. L. BRISTOL, *Secretary*.